

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A structural ~~[[beam]]~~ member for use in forming a frame for an architectural structure, comprising:

an elongated load bearing element having a plurality of walls, each of said plurality of walls including an interior surface and an exterior surface;

at least one ~~a plurality of~~ elongated projection ~~[[rails]]~~ fixedly connected to ~~a central portion of~~ said interior surface of at least a first one of said plurality of walls; and

an elongated reinforcing insert ~~reinforcement-slat~~ defining at least one ~~a plurality of~~ elongated channel ~~[[channels]]~~ that receives ~~[[receive]]~~ the at least one projection ~~plurality of rails~~ when said reinforcing insert ~~reinforcement-slat~~ is connected to the at least one projection ~~plurality of rails~~, wherein the at least one projection and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The structural member of claim 1, wherein the load bearing element has a generally rectangular cross-section.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The structural member of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing insert ~~reinforcement-slat~~ is made of metal.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The structural member of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing insert ~~reinforcement-slat~~ defines at least one secondary projection for receiving a secondary reinforcing insert ~~reinforcement-slat~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A structural member for making an architectural frame, said structural member comprising:

an elongated element having a plurality of walls, each of said plurality of walls including an inner surface and an outer surface;

at least one ~~a plurality of~~ elongated projection ~~[[rails]]~~ fixedly connected to ~~a central portion of~~ said outer surface of at least a first one of said plurality of walls; and

a reinforcement slat defining at least one ~~a plurality of~~ elongated channel ~~[[channels]]~~ that receives ~~[[receive]]~~ the at least one projection ~~plurality of elongated rails~~ when said reinforcement slat is connected to the at least one projection ~~plurality of rails~~, wherein the at least one projection and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The structural member of claim 5, wherein said element has a generally rectangular cross-section

Claim 7 (currently amended): The structural member of claim 5~~[[6]]~~, wherein the reinforcement slat is made of metal.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A support member for use in forming a frame for an architectural structure comprising:

a generally rectangular, hollow, elongated beam having a plurality of walls, each of said plurality of walls including an interior surface and an exterior surface;

a plurality of elongated rails integrally attached to a central region of an interior surface of at least a first one of the plurality of walls of the beam;

a reinforcing insert having a length coincident with or less than a length of the beam and defining a plurality of elongated channels that receive the plurality of rails when said reinforcing insert ~~reinforcement slat~~ is connected to the plurality of rails, wherein each of the rails and each of the channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): The support member of claim 8[[11]], wherein the beam is made of metal.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of reinforcing a support member that is used to form a frame for an architectural structure, comprising:

providing at least one elongated ~~an extruded hollow~~ beam that includes a plurality of interconnected walls, at least one of the plurality of walls including at least one ~~a plurality of~~ projecting rail ~~elongated rails~~ integrally connected to ~~a central portion of~~ an inside surface thereof;

providing a reinforcing insert defining at least one ~~a plurality of~~ elongated channel [[channels]] adapted to mate in inter-fitting engagement with said at least one rail ~~plurality of rails~~, wherein the at least one rail and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof; and

connecting the insert to the beam by inter-fitting the at least one rail ~~plurality of rails~~ within the at least one channel ~~the plurality of channels~~, the insert being sized and positioned relative to the beam in accordance with engineering calculations which determine the expected distribution of forces along the beam.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, further including the step of incorporating a plurality of such beams into an architectural structure.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the reinforcing insert is made of metal.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~An extruded bracing member for use in forming a frame for an architectural structure~~[[, said bracing member]] comprising:

a pair of adjacent structural beam members, at least one of the structural beam members including:

an elongated load bearing element having a plurality of walls, each of said plurality of walls including an interior surface and an exterior surface;

at least one elongated projection fixedly connected to said interior surface of at least one of said plurality of walls; and

a reinforcing insert defining at least one elongated channel that receives the at least one projection, wherein the at least one projection and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof; and

a rectangular strut connected transversely between the pair of adjacent structural beam members, the strut including: [[having]]

four walls defining an interior space, each wall meeting at a corner intersection, and

a transverse web extending from one corner intersection to a diagonally opposite corner intersection.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The architectural structure [[member]] of claim 16, wherein the strut ~~and the web~~ is [[are]] extruded.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The architectural structure [[member]] of claim 16, wherein the strut is ~~and the web~~ are made of metal.

Claim 20 (new): The structural member of claim 1, wherein the at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections, wherein the at least one channel comprises a plurality of channels, and wherein each of the plurality of projections and each of the plurality of channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 21 (new): The structural member of claim 5, wherein the at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections, wherein the at least one channel comprises a plurality of channels, and wherein each of the plurality of projections and each of the plurality of channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one rail comprises a plurality of rails, wherein the at least one channel comprises a plurality of channels, and wherein each of the plurality of rails and each of the plurality of channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one beam includes a pair of adjacent beams, the method further comprising:

providing a rectangular strut having four walls defining an interior space, each wall meeting at a corner intersection, and a transverse web extending from one corner intersection to a diagonally opposite corner intersection; and

connecting the rectangular strut transversely between the pair of adjacent beams to provide structural support to the pair of adjacent beams.

Claim 24 (new): The architectural structure of claim 16, wherein the at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections, wherein the at least one channel comprises a plurality of channels, and wherein each of the plurality of projections and each of the plurality of channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.